Carolina Country

DECEMBER, 1972

In my opinion your Oct. issue was the sorriest excuse for a magazine that I've ever seen . . . Anyone (like George McGovern) who would sell his own country over to become a Socialist government for a lie is in bad shape. I don't see how you can take the word of such a man after he is well known for contradicting his own statements. I'd rather have a man in office who is honest and doesn't give me anything than a liar in office who promises everything . . .

Any country which leaves God out of it is headed for trouble. And we who believe God's word know Jesus is coming real soon but as I said before why put a man such as George McGovern in office, which means destruction even sooner?

I just had to let you know how I detested your articles in this (the October) issue.

If you are going to use Carolina Country for politics, please do not send me another issue.

Pat Byerly
Rt. 2, Asheboro

Carolina Country respectfully submits it did not favor or endorse any political candidate in its October issue. It did present factual information about them and objectively and impartially reported what those who responded to invitations to state their positions on rural electric issues had to say on the subject.

Please discontinue sending your magazine to our house. Even though you claim to give the political candidates equal treatment, your comments show the ones you are prejudiced towards. I think our electric corporations belong to Republicans and Democrats alike. People have a way to know of their candidates without you telling them.

Mrs. J.C. Triplett
Patterson

The "Presidential Close-Up" in your October issue is just magnificent.

Jim Webster
Washington, D.C.

I do not know from where you get your stupid information . . . Am I ever glad I am out of North Carolina – a state run by a bunch of the biggest hypocrites and corrupt Democrats in the whole United States . . . God save North Carolina and the rest of the country from George McGovern and the Democrats!!

President Nixon NOW more than ever.

Malcolm Simmons
New York, N.Y.

Where will the money come from when an accident or sickness cuts off your income?

Will you have to apply for a second mortgage on your home or dip into your savings account? Instead, enjoy peace of mind with the Income Protection Insurance Plan available to you as a member of a North Carolina Rural Electric Cooperative.

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P.O. Box 1699 Raleigh, N.C. 27602

Your EMC's Magazine

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North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
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COVER — Once again, in keeping with what is becoming a Carolina Country tradition, our December cover features the Christmas angel. Many readers in the past have written to say it is their all-time favorite. It is singularly beautiful and appropriate. The angel, a wood polychrome, is one of the treasures of the North Carolina Museum of Art. It was created by the German Egid Quirin Asam around 1732 and was given to the North Carolina Museum of Art by the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

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Carolina Country®

Read Monthly in More Than 210,000 Homes.
Vol. 4 No. 12 December, 1972

A Hullabaloo for Christmas

Twenty years ago or more I wrote a bitter article decrying the commercialization of Christmas.

The way the stores started the Christmas season well before Thanksgiving struck me as a desecration of the holy feast. I took angry exception to the playing of Christmas music from loudspeakers to get shoppers in the mood for Christmas buying, and I charged the jingle bells of Christmas had been rung out by the jingle of the cash register.

Well, Christmas still comes early in the stores. The decorations go up on our main streets just as they did then, before Thanksgiving, and the cash registers still jingle, and the commercialization is even more intense.

I suppose I could still make the same charges and use the same angry words, but my mood has mellowed.

In fact, I find now I can't wait for Christmas. The merriment can't start too soon for me anymore. I'm glad when they start stringing the lights and hanging the artificial wreaths in the business district, and I like the Christmas music echoing through November's streets.

I'm not condoning desecrations; it's just that I'm finding as I grow older there is more to Christmas than buying gifts and hoping you'll get equal or better in return. I'm learning that the hullabaloo of Christmas sales and Christmas parades and the hard-sell Santa Claus really don't matter if you hear the hymn above the din.

And so I commend you, let the Christmas lights go on even earlier. Let the merchants drown shoppers in Christmas' glad tidings. Let the cash registers ring and the shopping center Santas come as early as they will.

Because if you have Christmas in your heart, the spirit of it will carry you through the cacophony. And if you have a place to be on Christmas Day with those who love Christmas too, and if you will hear in your church the Christmas story told again, you will know in your heart when Christmas comes that it is a miracle never tarnished. And you will wish its spirit could prevail, not only from before Thanksgiving Day but through every month of your years.

Jim Chaney

(Reprinted from the December issue of 1968)

Geothermal Energy

Where will the electric power needed by America's farms and factories, rural and urban communities come from in the decades ahead?

This question is receiving increased attention as the nation's escalating power requirements are confronted by the dwindling of traditional energy sources and mounting concern for the environment.

Hot rocks and water beneath the earth's surface may hold a partial answer.

Advocates of geothermal energy have long urged tapping underground sources of steam such as produce the geysers in national parks and at some other locations. The U.S. Geological Survey lists more than 1,100 thermal springs, mostly in Western states, and a few localities have used geothermal steam for heating homes, schools and other buildings.

But its use to date for producing electricity has been limited. Only one geothermal field – the Big Geysers in California – is now producing significant amounts of power.

Geothermal explorations, however, are becoming more numerous and scientists are devoting more attention to improved means of converting the potential sources to usable power. Spreading explorations include those underway in northern Mexico and the old volcanic mountains of New Mexico. One such location is about 25 miles northwest of Los Alamos, N.M., in the Valle Grande, where exploratory drillings began July 1 at Baca VI. The 100,000-acre tract is served by Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative.

Geothermal resources consist essentially of heat generated from the earth's core and recoverable in some medium such as hot ground water or existing as steam. The heat moves up in magma flows first conducted through solid rock layers until it reaches surface-close levels where favorable geological characteristics are found.

Steam pours forth from 3,500-foot deep geothermal well at Baca VI

This heat transforms into super hot pressurized underground waters. By means of specially drilled wells these underground waters, with a large amount of stored thermal energy, are brought to the surface and turned into steam to generate electric power.

There are about 100,000 square miles of known geothermal reserves in the United States, of which 50,000 square miles are estimated to be about a mile thick. Contained in that reserve is enough energy to generate the total electrical supply of the U.S. for 150 years at the present rate of consumption – at less than it costs now to generate electricity at either nuclear or oil-fired power plants.

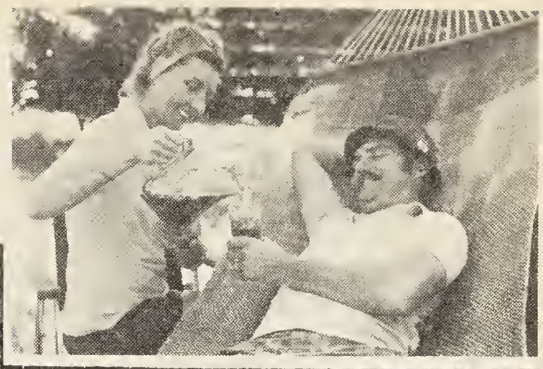
Beside economical power production and generation of useful by-products, potential advantages include negligible harmful impact to the atmosphere and no water pollution. It also is seen by the Bureau of Reclamation, which in August completed drilling its first deep geothermal well to tap the hot brines underlying Imperial Valley in southern California, as a possible source for high quality desalted water.

However, use of geothermal energy has some adverse effects. These include the diversion of land from farming and other uses and the possibility of saline water spills. And power plants using the natural steam may have a problem with accompanying chemicals corroding pipes and valves.

In the offing may be a means of minimizing corrosion problems through the tapping of another geothermal source. It would involve drilling into hot but dry underground regions and pumping water into the earth where it would be circulated and heated, following which the boiling water would rise to the surface and create steam to power the generators.

It is estimated there are sufficient dry geothermal reserves in the continental United States at depths of between 1.9 and 6.2 miles "to satisfy the country's electric energy requirements for several thousands of years." Barring unforeseen problems, scientists say, such geothermal wells could be producing power within 10 to 15 years at costs less than those required to operate power plants fueled by coal, oil or nuclear energy.

What do you want... a home you don't have to paint?



Jim Walter builds a better buy!

Actually our homes do require painting . . . but not very often. Here's why . . . the siding used by Jim Walter Homes is hardboard. We call it "wood made better" because modern technology has made it possible to improve upon lumber, nature's own building material. We actually take the trees, pull them apart, put them back together again and make lumber that is almost entirely impervious to dry rot, warpage and other deficiencies usually associated with wood. Then, in the factory, our hardboard siding is primed for painting, and the backside is surfaced-sealed to prevent absorption of moisture, a natural enemy of paint. It is then practically non-porous, meaning that you use less paint and you paint less often. And if you dread the tedious chore of painting windows relax again . . . Jim Walter Homes installs aluminum windows that never need to be painted.

So once in a while you'll have to paint your homestead, but in the long run you'll be able to spend more time fishing, playing golf or lying back in your hammock. Whatever you enjoy doing for relaxation, you'll be able to do more of it . . . and enjoy living in your new home by Jim Walter besides.

Before you get too relaxed, though, here's how a little work can save you a lot of dollars . . . the amount depends upon how much interior work you do for yourself. Jim Walter Homes will build a two, three or four bedroom home on your property, completely finishing the outside, including the first paint job, but stop at almost any stage of interior completion. You can pocket big savings by doing all or just a little of the inside finish work. To make it even more convenient, we'll furnish the material and include the cost in your mortgage payments.

■ OVER 20 "BETTER BUY" MODELS ■ BUILT ON YOUR PROPERTY

Call your local Jim Walter Homes' manager for complete information and the cost of building on your property. He'll show you the more than 20 different two, three and four bedroom models, some with two baths, and he'll explain how qualified property owners can get INSTANT MORTGAGE FINANCING. Isn't it time that you moved up to a "better buy" by Jim Walter?

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A report of a Workshop at which specialists discussed how to create more jobs in rural areas and explained what assistance, grants and loans are available to help provide better housing, water systems and meet the other needs of rural people and rural communities.

Community development, industrial development, area development; call it what you will; it is making a difference in rural North Carolina.

It is making rural communities and small towns across the state better places in which to live and work. It is enabling rural people to obtain better housing, water systems, sewer systems, solid waste disposal facilities and the other things modern communities need.

It is creating job opportunities, and it is diversifying and revitalizing the rural economy.

Like rural electrification, it is synonymous with and a stimulator of rural development, and because it is, North Carolina's consumer-owned electric membership corporations are actively engaged in making it work.

The EMCs' state association, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, reflected the EMCs' interest in it by sponsoring a Community Development Workshop at which all aspects of community, industrial and area development were discussed.

The workshop was held in Raleigh in October. The participants included EMC development specialists and representatives of federal, state and private agencies which have programs related to rural needs. They explored every program, existing and new, from which grants, loans and other assistance can be obtained for community development.

Bryant Braswell, director of area development for Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro, presided as moderator over a discussion of regionalism in North Carolina and of programs relating to water systems and waste treatment facilities.

Ronald D. Baker, then director of industrial services for N.C. EMC, presided over a session on rural housing.

Herman Anderson, director of area development for Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, served as moderator for a panel on industrial development and told how to attract industry to rural areas.

Bill Murray, rural areas development legislative representative for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, attended the workshop as the expert on the new Rural Development Act of 1972. NRECA and its member systems played a major role in developing provisions of the far-reaching Act and in getting it through Congress.

Thomas Broughton, administrator of the State Division of Commerce and Industry, challenged the development specialists not just to go out and get industry but to get quality industry.

The objectives, he said, should be to attract both business and industry, to diversify our economy and raise our average annual income. The industries North Carolina wants are those with "an enlightened view of protecting our environment."

We've got to be selective, he stressed, if we are to do the right kind of job. The day is past when we should accept every industrial prospect who comes with his hands out. We must be very selective, for example, in screening out prospects who will deplete local water supplies and overload local waste treatment facilities. We're not going to raise North Carolina's per capita income unless we're very selective in attracting new industries which will pay better wages.

Al Ballard, community development consultant for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, told the group people should come first in development programs.

Without people, he said, programs will come to nothing; we need to inspire people in the communities, we need their support to get our programs off the drawing boards.

The Rural Development Act of 1972 makes possible many solutions to rural problems, he said, but it will take the participation of people in the communities to make it fully effective. He also said:

We can't assume that because there's a housing program, or an industry or a water system in a community that all the objectives of rural development have been met. We must make sure all the people who need the benefits receive them and we must make them a part of our programs.

We have an obligation to involve all the people of the community, not just the leaders. Use the grassroots approach, relate programs to people, scale them to people's needs. When you involve the people who need the benefits, you have natural checks and balances that assure programs will be practical and successful.

The panel discussions brought out that the assistance available for community development varies according to the nature of the project, the applicant and the agency which administers the particular program from which assistance is sought.

A synopsis of presentations made by members of the panels follows:

Water and Waste Disposal

State grants for water systems and waste disposal, James F. Stamey, State Board of Health Sanitary Engineering Division, and Coy Batten, State Office of Water and Air Resources:

The State's $150 million Clean Water Bond Act provides for grants to assist in the construction of water systems and waste water treatment systems and facilities. Only local

government units are eligible for the grants. The grants are limited to not more than 25 percent of the cost of the projects.

Larry Whitehurst, community programs specialist, state office of Farmers Home Administration:

Rural people as individuals, rural communities, public or quasi-public bodies and non-profit corporations may apply for loans and grants from Farmers Home Administration for construction of water systems, waste water systems and solid waste disposal facilities. For information, contact the local Farmers Home supervisor serving your county.

Grants are made only to reduce monthly user charges to a reasonable level. Funds presently are not adequate to fill all applications, but the new Rural Development Act, when implemented, will greatly increase scope and funding for Farmers Home water and waste disposal loans and grants.

Community Water and Waste Treatment Facilities, Department of Housing and Urban Development:

HUD has a number of programs through which loans and grants may be made to help finance water systems and waste treatment facilities. Information may be obtained from the Department of Housing and Urban Development office at 2309 Northwest Plaza, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.

Bernard M. Porché, chief, grants administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Atlanta, Ga.:

EPA makes construction grants to assist and encourage construction of waste treatment systems to prevent pollution and makes basic planning grants to assist states and local governments in cleaning up pollution in river basins.

There are many ways small rural communities can get federal assistance for waste water and solid waste disposal systems and facilities. The new Federal "Clean Water Act" will, when implemented, authorize EPA to fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of a project and will make it the one agency communities will be able to come to for funding. For information, contact Bernard Porche, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, 1421 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

Assistance from the Economic Development Administration, Ron Ingle and Dale Jones:

EDA is concerned with restoring the economy of areas with high unemployment, low family income and high out-migration. Its primary goal is to create new jobs in depressed areas and it is authorized to provide technical assistance and planning for projects designed to create jobs and improve the economy. It also can make public works grants and loans and provide business loans and working capital for economic development. For information, contact the Economic Development Administration's office, Room 314, Federal Building, Raleigh, N.C.

Rural Housing Programs

Joe Eagles, executive director, North Carolina Housing Corporation:

The Corporation was created to promote home ownership for low-income people. If we had the money, we could do a lot . . . We have not forgotten the rural aspects of housing. Decent housing is the public's business, therefore it's the State's business. We are moving slower than we like, but we are moving.

James Buchanan, chief, housing loan division, state office of Farmers Home Administration:

Farmers Home loans are available to families with low to moderate income in rural areas and communities to finance construction and purchase of modest homes – modest in size and design. Farmers Home also makes loans for rental housing in rural areas for occupancy by families of low to moderate income.

The new Rural Development Act expands the Farmers Home rural housing loan program, provides for loans to families of higher income than low income and allows larger allocations for site development and allows loans to be made in larger towns than is now the case.

For information, contact the local Farmers Home Administration supervisor serving your county.

C. Odell Boyte of Sanford, regional supervisor, Federal Land Bank of Columbia:

Rural home loans now can be made through two units of the Farm Credit System – Federal Land Banks, which make long-term loans through local Federal Land Bank Associations, and Production Credit Associations, which make short-term and intermediate term loans.

Although Land Banks and PCAs have financed farm housing in their past, their new authority permits them to make loans for non-farm homes, including conventional dwellings, modular and mobile homes, provided mobile homes are on permanent foundations and tied in with adequate water, sewage and other utilities.

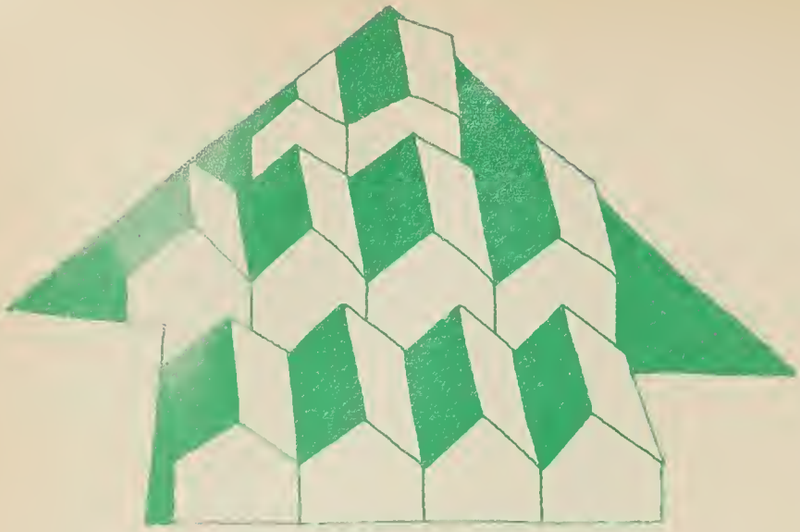
For information, contact the nearest FLB or PCA. (Their locations appear in the Farm Credit Service ad in Carolina Country monthly except December.)

W.C. Warwick, housing specialist, N.C. Agricultural Extension Service:

The Extension Service provides free house plans for reasonably priced, modern rural dwellings, assists families in planning and budgeting for homes and conducts programs to inform low-income families about housing and how they may go about obtaining better homes.

Milton T. Jones, community development specialist, Division of Economic Opportunity:

The Community Action Program provides technical assistance and counseling for low to moderate income groups with needs such as better housing. It makes them knowledgeable about available assistance and informs them how to obtain that assistance.



Walter L. Smith, executive director, Low Income Housing Corporation:

Much of the Corporation's work consists of helping low income people make arrangements to qualify for assistance by agencies which make grants and loans for housing. Probably the most difficult part of the program is reaching the people who need help and organizing them into local non-profit corporations to carry out housing projects, as was done at Fountain.

Tom McNeely, multi-family housing representative, Department of Housing and Urban Development:

Multi-family housing is one of many housing programs administered by HUD. Loans and grants are available for five or more units in a project other than a subdivision and can be made for mobile homes and mobile home parks as well as for conventional housing. The program also covers public housing for people at the bottom in income. Loans and grants for public housing are made to public housing authorities which can be created by any county or municipal government. HUD has to have local interest before it can get involved.

Regional Planning

Workshop panelists who explained regionalism included: John Booth of the Office of State Planning, State Department of Administration; Lindsay W. Cox of Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Greensboro, and Roy Fogle of Neuse River Regional Planning and Development Council, New Bern. They told the workshop:

Regional planning through the state's 17 multi-county planning region coordinates all aspects of planning and development and is good news for taxpayers. It pools resources, meets needs on a multi-county basis, cuts costs and provides for orderly growth without wasteful duplication. Both State and Federal Programs are using the regional approach. Local community, municipal and county programs and projects will have to be cleared with and coordinated through their regional planning agency.

Industrial Development

Panelists who discussed industrial development included: Albert N. Calloway of the State Division of Commerce and Industry; Robert Rowe of the Hertford County Industrial Development Commission; Duane Lewis of First Union National Bank; Thomas J. Whitton of Seaboard Coast Line Railroad; Ben Taylor of Envirotech Inc.; Herman Anderson, and Ronald Baker. They brought out:

Community effort is the key to industrial development. Community leadership is the cornerstone of a developed community.

The Governor's Award program established by Governor Scott to promote community development has brought formal recognition of local development efforts for nearly 70 towns.

Having local development teams and available sites and buildings is important in attracting industry. The community must really want industry and be willing to make the commitment necessary to attract industry and to make itself the kind of community in which people will want to live and work.

In setting up an industrial development program, organize the community and have a competent person responsible for heading the local effort. Make an inventory of the community's resources, facilities, utilities and services and compile a brochure setting out the facts simply, concisely and clearly.

Make sure the sites (and buildings) you show industrial prospects can be had at a reasonable price and will not jump in price when you prepare to close the deal. Have maps prepared of sites showing features and location, along with a printed description of facilities. The more facilities such as access roads and power, water and sewer lines a site has, the greater the chance an industry will select it.

Don't overwhelm industrial prospects with large crowds of local dignitaries and elaborate entertaining. Be business-like, don't waste money and the prospect's time.

Sell your community, sell its "liveability." But don't forget the importance of preserving the environment and the community's resources. No community needs an industry which will deplete its resources and damage the environment.

Make use of the State Division of Commerce and Industry and other agencies in your development efforts.

Railroads are interested in industrial development because it generates rail freight revenues. Banks are interested because it's good business.

A well-planned industrial park helps greatly to attract industry.

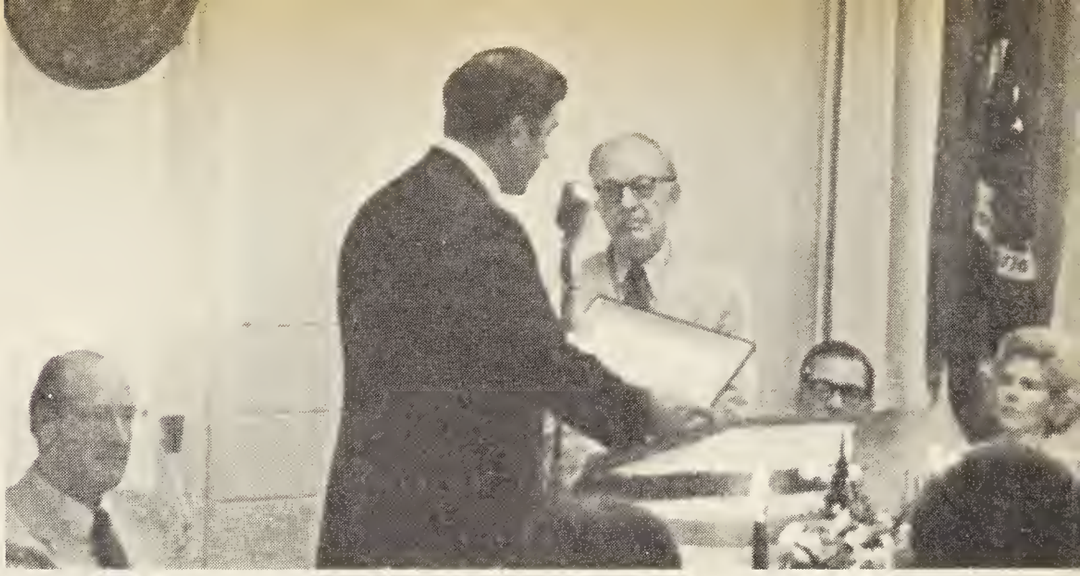
Workshop participants ponder a point

Belhaven Receives

GOVERNOR'S AWARD

For Industrial Development

By Julian Goff



Governor Scott presents the Governor's Award to Chamber of Commerce President Ralph Wallace. Mayor Axson Smith is seated to the left. Mayor Pro Tem Charles Boyette and Mrs. Boyette are seated to the right.

Governor Bob Scott honored Belhaven September 8, by personally presenting the Beaufort County town the Governor's Award for exceptional achievement in community and industrial development.

It was the 63rd presentation of the award since the program began. The Governor's Award is the result of Scott's desire to see greater assistance provided for North Carolina's smaller cities and towns.

(Three Madison County communities, Marshall, Mars Hill and Hot Springs, were scheduled to receive the Governor's Award in November).

Soon after Scott was elected, he directed the Division of Commerce and Industry to establish a plan to help the smaller communities attract industry. The program that evolved became known as the Governor's Award Program.

Scott said, "It is hard to believe that this award program has grown so much in a such a relatively short time . . . it has exceeded my expectations."

The program, which is designed for communities of less than 10,000 population, calls for fulfillment of five basic requirements. The first step is to complete a community audit, which simply means that the basic facts on the community and its services are compiled in one easy-to-read report. Such items as tax rates, utilities, labor, and transportation are covered.

Next the community must have an all-out clean-up, fix-up campaign. Also a development corporation must be established to work with prospective industry.

A promotional brochure for industrial prospects is another requirement. This brochure should present in words and pictures, the assets which the community has to offer industries.

The last requirement is to locate several industrial sites which are available at a reasonable cost.

After the five steps are completed, a committee selected by the Division of Commerce and Industry meets with the community to review the accomplishments and to decide if the community qualifies for the Governor's Award.

Belhaven fulfilled all the requirements and qualified for the Award, through the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and with the help of the Town of Belhaven and most of the community's citizens and organizations. Chamber of Commerce President Ralph Wallace and his committee chairmen worked for several months to meet and surpass the requirements of the program. Belhaven is representative of many communities that have worked through the Governor's Award Program to develop their full economic and industrial potential.

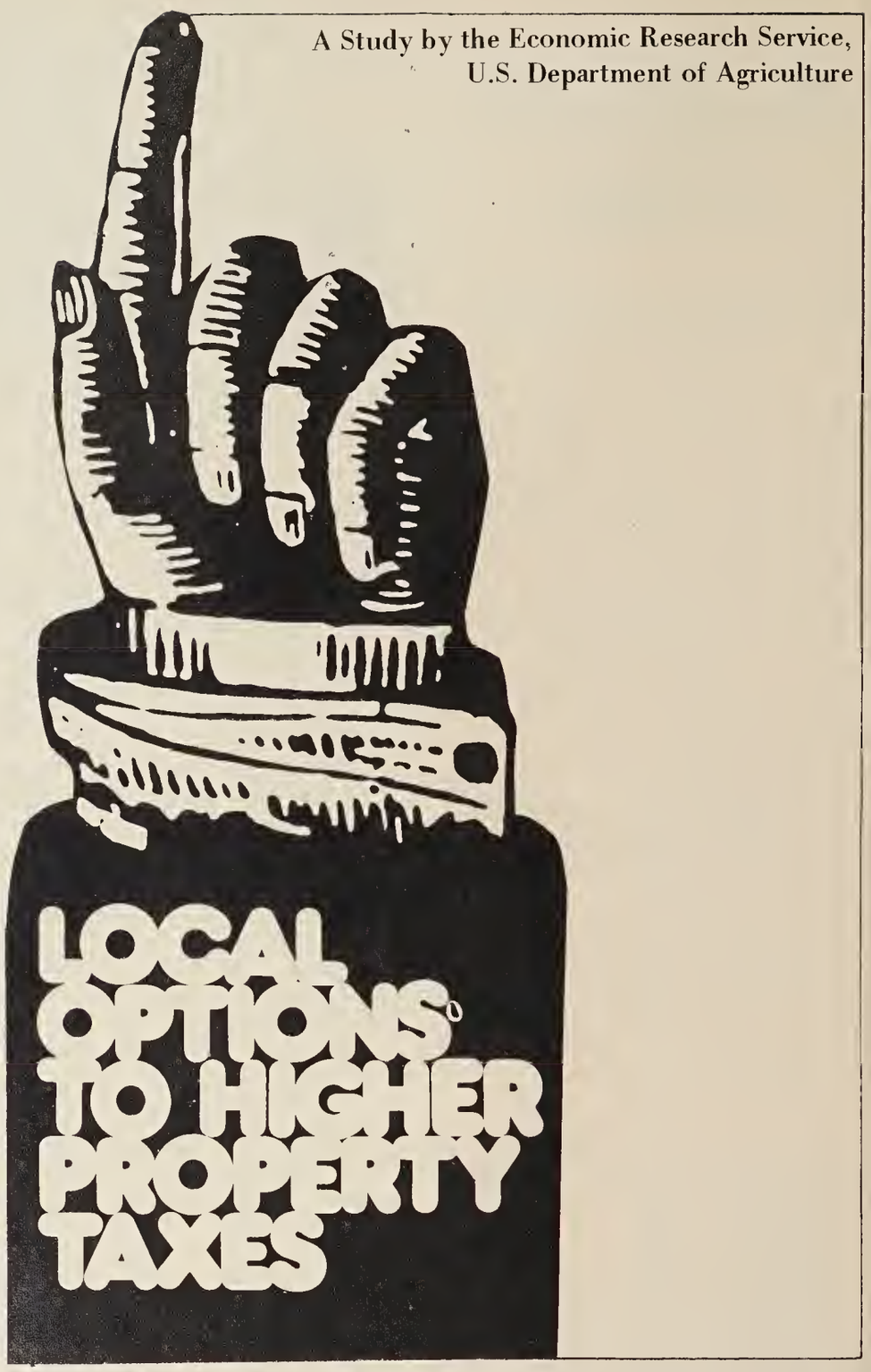
It was a big day for Belhaven when the Governor came to town, and it is anticipated that the Governor's Award will be a stepping stone toward bigger and better days for the economy of the Belhaven area.

'nor's Award Committee Chairman Russell Johnston, Chamber lent Ralph Wallace, and Tideland EMC Manager Glenn Carowan v the promotional brochure prepared for industrial prospects.

Sites Chairman Fernie Laughinghouse (left) reviews a possible industrial site with Milan Muzinich, regional representative with the N.C. Division of Commerce and Industry.

Under pressures of rising expenditures and resistance to higher property taxes, local governments have been looking to tax options—three of which are examined here.

A Study by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Local governments have traveled several routes to ease the tax bite on private property, including local income taxes, payroll taxes, and sales taxes.

Whether these options would work in many rural areas remains to be seen. So far the development of new tax sources has been largely an urban phenomenon.

According to ERS specialists in community facilities, local governments in nine States now levy income taxes, though they're most widely used in five States—Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Most are city governments, chiefly because local income taxes provide one of the few alternatives for cities to get necessary revenue within their present tax structure.

Moreover, many of the cities levying the tax are employment centers. They stand to gain much from taxing commuters. Since commuters do use city services, this helps justify the tax on them.

Local income taxes have their disadvantages, however. Taxpayers who already pay Federal and State taxes oppose a third layer of income taxation with its problems of complying with overlapping—but different—tax law .

Commuters object to the tax when they have no voice in how the money is spent.

The tax can discourage new business and residents from moving into an area.

Other shortcomings: local income taxes can be costly to collect alongside revenues generated; the revenue flow is more uneven than from property taxes, especially in the case of smaller local governments. State governments, rather than collect a hodgepodge of local income taxes, tend to favor increasing taxes at the State level and to share some of the revenue with local units.

Payroll taxes offer the same pluses and minuses as the local income tax. They have the additional disadvantage of being less equitable than a general tax, since a smaller portion of all income is taxed.

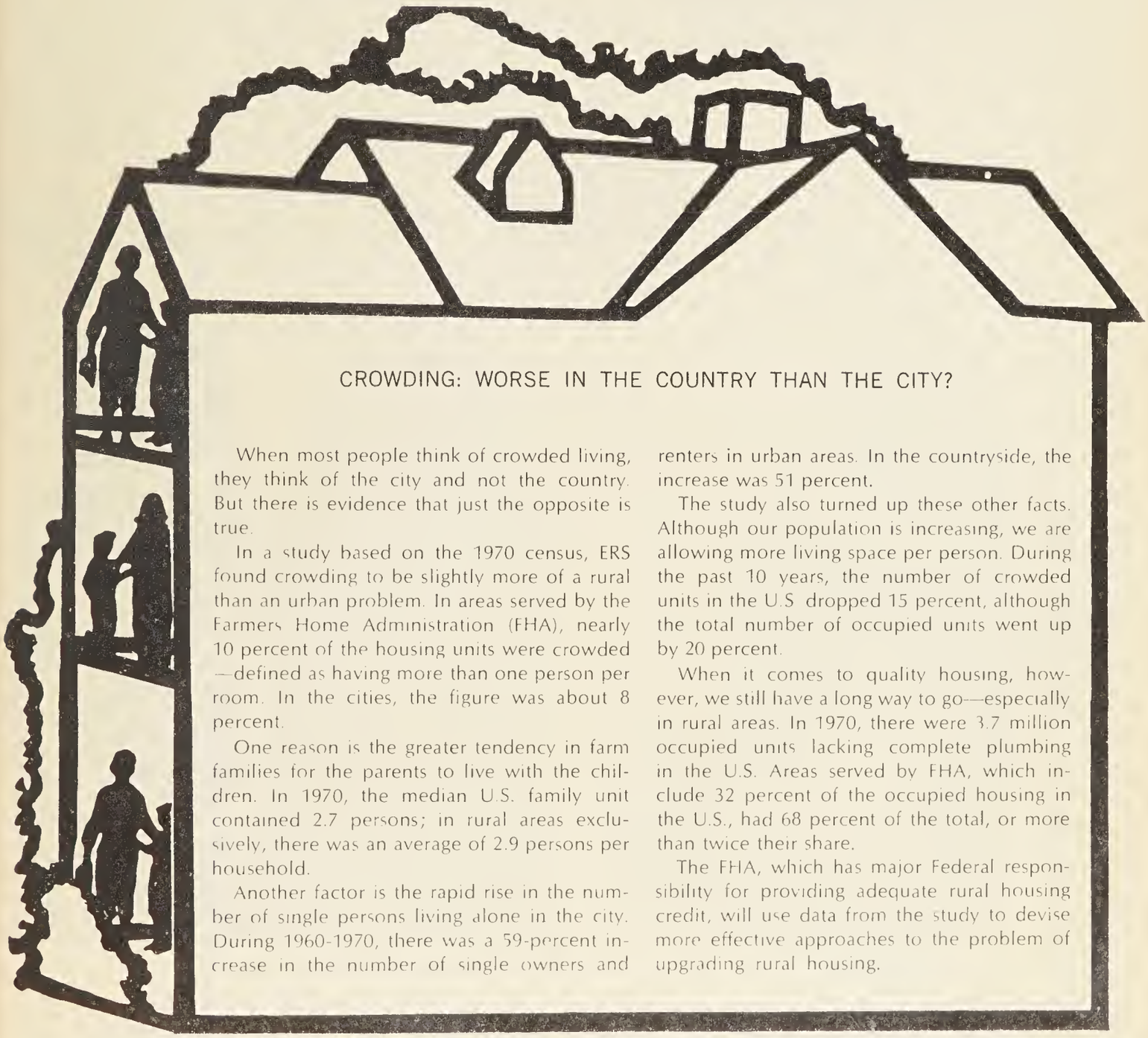
In rural areas in particular, the payroll tax would not appear to be a solution to the basic question of property tax reform. That's partly because wages and salaries in rural places account for a smaller share of total personal income than is true of the country as a whole.

Local sales taxes, a third type of nonproperty tax which is levied in 25 States, carry substantial benefits

for shopping center communities. The revenue base is more stable than the local income tax, but less stable than the property tax. Too, smaller communities prefer the local sales tax to the income tax because sales taxes are easier to collect and there are fewer jurisdictional problems. And sales taxes are thought by some to be more equitable than property taxes.

On the other hand, the sales tax can prompt small businesses to move out of the area so as to become competitive with retailers in the nontax localities. Also, because nonresidents are taxed, some inequities are created. Often the tax on nonresidents produces revenues which bear little relationship to the comparative revenue needs of the taxing and nontaxing communities.

In the view of the ERS economists who made these judgements, local nonproperty taxes have one drawback in common. They depend on a local tax base, usually income or sales. These bases—especially in rural areas—may be more unequally distributed than the property tax base. As a result, the most sparsely populated rural units of government —which often face the most severe revenue problems—may find that nonproperty taxes would worsen their situation.



CROWDING: WORSE IN THE COUNTRY THAN THE CITY?

When most people think of crowded living, they think of the city and not the country. But there is evidence that just the opposite is true.

In a study based on the 1970 census, ERS found crowding to be slightly more of a rural than an urban problem. In areas served by the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), nearly 10 percent of the housing units were crowded —defined as having more than one person per room. In the cities, the figure was about 8 percent.

One reason is the greater tendency in farm families for the parents to live with the children. In 1970, the median U.S. family unit contained 2.7 persons; in rural areas exclusively, there was an average of 2.9 persons per household.

Another factor is the rapid rise in the number of single persons living alone in the city. During 1960-1970, there was a 59-percent increase in the number of single owners and renters in urban areas. In the countryside, the increase was 51 percent.

The study also turned up these other facts. Although our population is increasing, we are allowing more living space per person. During the past 10 years, the number of crowded units in the U.S dropped 15 percent, although the total number of occupied units went up by 20 percent.

When it comes to quality housing, however, we still have a long way to go—especially in rural areas. In 1970, there were 3.7 million occupied units lacking complete plumbing in the U.S. Areas served by FHA, which include 32 percent of the occupied housing in the U.S., had 68 percent of the total, or more than twice their share.

The FHA, which has major Federal responsibility for providing adequate rural housing credit, will use data from the study to devise more effective approaches to the problem of upgrading rural housing.

Museum Masterpieces – make them at home when you hypage your favorite prints. Just mount small reproductions of famous paintings on wooden plaques and you can enjoy the treasures that hang in the Louvre or Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Carolina Homemaker
Edited by Brenda Sargent

Decoupage

Thanks to modern technology, the ancient art of decoupage is now enjoying one of the biggest revivals in centuries. Decoupage is the technique of applying a print to wood and varnishing it until a porcelain-like surface is achieved. It's a fascinating craft that goes back to the days of the earliest civilizations.

Hundreds of years before paper even existed in Europe, Chinese peasants were cutting intricate designs representing animals, fish, landscapes and folktales. In 16th Century Italy, decoupage was known as *l'arte del uomo povero* – the poor man's art. People who couldn't afford painted furniture achieved the same lavish effect with decoupage.

The French developed decoupage even further and gave it its present name in the 17th Century. It became a favorite pastime in the 18th Century French court and a fashionable hobby in England in the 19th Century. One of the most famous examples of decoupage is a floor screen done by the great poet, Lord Byron. Pictures of his favorite authors, actors, and actresses are on one side, while prize fighters adorn the other.

As lovely as its results were, the 4,000-year-old decoupage was a difficult and time consuming procedure. It meant applying a print to wood and varnishing it as many

Sand down your board or plaque so it will be smooth when you place the print on it. Staining, antiquing or distressing should be done after the picture has been applied.

as 25 times until the edges seemed to be part of the surface. But today, the miracle of plastics is responsible for a new technique called hypage. With this method, the print looks as if it were actually painted on the wood, the wood grain shows through the picture, and the satin-like surface remains.

Try this delightful new way of achieving fine works of art by first going through newspapers and magazines for interesting pictures. The ones you choose depend on your own taste and on where you'll want to display the final piece. Portraits and landscapes are right for the living room or other formal areas, while pictures of tempting foods brighten up a kitchen, and illustrations of nursery rhymes fit in perfectly with the baby's room.

Even a newspaper print on very thin paper with printing on the reverse side will hypage beautifully, so just trim or tear the print the way you want it to appear. Then take a wooden board and sand it down. Do not stain or antique it. If you want to "distress" the edges to make the board look old, wait until the picture hs been applied.

Now apply one coat of Hyplar Acrylic Polymer Gloss Medium and Varnish to the print and let it dry about 30 minutes. Apply a second coat to the print and immediately place it face down on the board. Using a wooden roller and, starting from the center, begin to roll out the air pockets. It's very important that you remove all the air bubbles; their presence will prevent the print from transferring.

Placing a heavy object on the board for an hour or so will set the print and keep it flat. Let this dry thoroughly about 24 hours. This is the deciding step because a polymer (a water soluble material) becomes waterproof when it is completely dried. If you don't wait until it's thoroughly dry, you run the risk of losing the print.

After the print has dried, soak the back with water and slowly remove the paper. Here, be very cautious that you do not remove the print.

Now all you have to do is stand back and admire the beautiful work of art you created. Hypage's possibilities are unlimited. Consider preserving the kid's first drawing by hypaging it on a toy chest or other piece of furniture, or start a personal art gallery by mounting small reproductions of famous paintings on wooden plaques and have your own copy of the Mona Lisa.

And gift giving in this holiday season becomes a pleasure rather than chore when you can present something that's truly lovely, truly unique - created by you.

Yesterday's Art Today

Easy does it. Hypaging is simple for beginner or old pro. Merely apply one coat of Hyplar Acrylic Polymer Gloss Medium and Varnish to the print and let dry. After about 30 minutes, apply a second coat and immediately place the print face down on the board.

Get those bubbles! As soon as the print has been placed on the board, take a wooden roller and, starting from the center begin rolling out the air pockets. This is important because air bubbles will prevent the print from transferring.

FASHION FAVORITES

4967
SIZES 8-18

9133 SIZES 7-15

4810
SIZES
34-48

4921
SIZES 8-18

4633
TEEN 10-16

4821
SIZES 8-18

Pattern No. 4821 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18
Pattern No. 4921 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18
Pattern No. 4633 is cut in teen sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16
Pattern No. 4810 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48
Pattern No. 4967 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18
Pattern No. 9133 is cut in sizes 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15

Send 75 cents in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N. Y. 10011. For first class mail, add 15 cents for each pattern. Be sure to include your full address, zip code and pattern size.

ABOUT THE HOUSE

Old Plastic Shades

Plastic shades no longer suitable for windows can be used by cutting out good parts for lining drawers. Tack down the corners and you can just wash when needed.

Quilt Cover

To make a colorful cover for an old quilt, buy two twin size, no iron, printed sheets on sale and use them. You'll have enough left on the end for a pretty pair of pillow cases to match the quilt. All in all, it is very economical and so colorful – almost eliminates the need for a bedspread.

Save Wall

Before you hang a picture put thumb tacks on the lower corners of the back of the frame. This will hold the picture away from the wall and prevent a dirty spot that generally shows up when you want to move the picture.

Cleaning Stuffed Animals

To clean children's stuffed animals that can no longer be washed, cover them with a thick layer of starch. After it is thoroughly dry, remove the starch with a very stiff brush. Dirt and grease will come off with it.

To Remove Melted Plastic

If a bread wrapper or plastic bag gets too near a hot toaster or percolator and leaves a smudge of plastic goo on the appliance, moisten a facial tissue with nail polish remover and rub gently to remove.

If you have any helpful hints or special information that you would like to share with other readers, send them to: About The House, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

KITCHEN CORNER

AN OLD-FASHION FRUIT CAKE

Start your Christmas baking off early this year with a very, very, rich, old-fashion fruit cake which tastes even better when kept for several weeks. Mrs. R. Leon Russell of Denton sent the recipe that her mother-in-law has used for years – a cake that has become a family tradition.

Mrs. Russell writes that the cake though easy to make, is expensive but well worth what it costs when you taste it. Many of you will probably remember a cake like this from years past.

The Russells are served by Randolph EMC and have four boys ages 9 to 16.

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share through this column, send it to: Brenda Sargent, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Tell us something about the recipe and any helpful tips you have discovered in preparing it, your family, and the name of the EMC that serves you. We pay $2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

OLD FASHION FRUIT CAKE

7 eggs
3 c. flour (leaving one to coat raisins)
2 tsp. baking soda
1 c. butter milk or sour milk
1 lb. butter
1 lb. raisins
1 c. blackberry jam
2 c. sugar
1 c. fig preserves
1 c. pear preserves
2 tsp. allspice
2 tsp. cloves

Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs. Sift baking soda and spices with flour. Add all ingredients together – adding flour mixture last, a little at a time. Bake at 300 degrees until tooth pick comes out clean when inserted into cake. Makes 3 square cake pan layers, filled about 1/2 full with batter.

Filling and Icing

3 c. sugar
2 egg whites
1/2 lb. butter
1 c. sweet milk

Beat egg whites and add gradually to other ingredients which have been cooked slowly together until thick and allowed to slightly cool.

NEEDLE CRAFT

Pattern No. 7496
Quickie squares in 3 bright colors are easy to memorize and to join into this little girl's coat.

Pattern No. 7033
Wrap yourself in the luxury of mohair or novelty yarn. Crochet circle cape in easy spider design.

Pattern No. 7379
Put color under your feet with this corchet oval rug. So easy even a beginner can make it.

Pattern No. 7227
Whip up this shirt of wool, cotton, knits. Embroider the design on the front panel.

Send 75 cents (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, Needlecraft Dept., Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011 Print your name, address, zip code and pattern number.

CONSUMER NEWS

This article has been prepared with the assistance of the North Carolina State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. If you have a complaint or information about unfair or deceptive trade practices, notify the Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 629, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

REPAIR SHOPS CAN DECEIVE UNSUSPECTING MOTORISTS. Most people don't know very much about the workings of their automobiles. They have to trust that a repair shop will be honest and fair when they take their cars for repairs or an inspection. Unfortunately, some consumers think they are being victimized by repair fraud. The Consumer Protection Division gets complaints from people who tell us that a garage charged them for unauthorized repairs, or for work that wasn't done, or parts not installed.

Some auto repair shops reportedly have told consumers that the cost of a new part will be a certain price. When the customer gets the bill, unexpected charges for parts and labor have been added without authorization. The total may be two or three times more than the price the shop quoted. Consumers have also reported that some unscrupulous transmission repair shops quoted a low price for the work. After the transmission had been dismantled they raised the price and refused to put the car back together unless the customer paid the higher price. Some car owners have taken their cars to garages for a specific repair and have then been told that they needed costly, additional repairs. A check with a reputable shop indicated the extra repairs were not necessary.

The Consumer Protection Division urges car owners to deal only with reputable repair shops that have a record of good service to customers. It is also a good idea to ask for a written estimate of major repair costs. Be sure the estimate includes all the needed parts and labor charges. If there is a question about the need for an unexpected repair, it may be possible to get another mechanic's opinion before agreeing to have the work done. If there is doubt about the need for replacement of a certain part, ask the shop to return the old part so that it can be examined by someone else.

RAILROAD SCHOOL AD CAUSED PROBLEMS – Not long ago the Consumer Protection Division was able to assist a Goldsboro family with a problem involving a railroad training school. The problem began when the young man in the family answered an ad in which the school offered job training.

A representative of the school told the boy and his parents the school would pay the boy $95 a week while he worked during the day and attended classes at night. The school's representative also said the school offered a tuition loan with no interest, which could be paid back after the boy graduated and got a job, and that the school guaranteed jobs to its graduates. The family was asked to make a down payment of $340, which the representative said the boy could pay back to his parents from his monthly earnings. The family paid the $340 and signed a contract.

Later that day the family read the contract carefully and discovered the representations made by the man weren't true. The papers the family had signed included a credit contract from a finance company, and the loan was not interest free. The school did not begin until September but the loan payments began in June, and the contract said the school did not guarantee employment and that the deposit wouldn't be refunded.

The family wanted to cancel the contract and get its money back but the school's representative had already cashed the check. The family then wrote to the Consumer Protection Division. The Division informed the school of the family's complaint and asked for an explanation of the misrepresentations. Soon afterwards, the school made a full refund and agreed to cancel the contract.

BEST OF BOOKS

IN SOME FOREIGN FIELD. By L. VanLoan Naisawald. John F. Blair, Publisher, 404 NCNB Bldg., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. $2.95.

"If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England."
–Rupert Brooke

There's a fascinating story of how those memorable lines came to be quoted on a bronze plaque on the fence of a little cemetery in picturesque Ocracoke. It is the story of four British graves on the Outer Banks, and L. VanLoan Naisawald tells it well. Indeed, his trim, attractive and compact book is a gem – a credit to both the author and the publisher.

The story began in World War II, when Nazi submarines began systematically raiding shipping lanes off our Atlantic coast. In March, 1942, alone, a total of 25 vessels were torpedoed, and, to quote Naisawald, "the slaughter continued into April at virtually the same pace."

The U.S. asked Britain for help in dealing with the raiders. The British, beset with similar problems off their own coasts, offered to loan the U.S. Navy a flotilla of 24 antisubmarine trawlers. *HMS Bedfordshire* was one of these ships. In May, the *Bedfordshire* was herself attacked and sunk. The bodies of four of her crew, subsequently washed ashore, now lie in the four Ocracoke graves.

Naisawald spent three years sorting out and piecing together all the facts he has assembled. The result is an unusual, well-illustrated, thorough and readable book which tells not only of the four graves but of the *Bedfordshire*, her men and her sister trawlers. It also tells about Ocracoke and its people and about the war off Hatteras and the U-boats, particularly the U-558 which sealed the *Bedfordshire's* fate.

More than that, *"In Some Foreign Field"* is a remarkable reconstruction of an episode in North Carolina history which but for Naisawald's efforts might have been forgotten.

POET'S CORNER

VERSES FROM OUR READERS

A Country Christmas

Pineweed burns on the open hearth,
Bayberry candles brightly glow,
Sweet odor of ham from the stove as
The wind and snow begins to blow.

Strange images on the country side,
The village tree glows with light,
Christmas wreaths blossom on every door,
A beautiful Christmas night.

Lights gleam softly in the snow with
Faint echo of the carolers song,
Embers die into grey ash
When Christmas time comes along.

Porch trees stand out like scarecrows
And squatted close to the ground,
Fields look like ragged quilts of
Greys, blues, and brown.

Mistletoe, holly and painted pine,
Candles glowing in the dark,
Long shadows creep to and fro,
Children skating in the park.

Soft lovely snowflakes gently fall,
Light from the moon silvers the pond,
Lighted trees are all aglow,
Painted lights flicker on the lawn.

Wind serges the meadow with snowflakes,
The house has a warmth of glow,
Cracking of nuts and popping of corn,
A country Christmas we all know.

Joann Denton
Morganton

The Sleeping Woods

I walked today through the sleeping woods
The trees were covered in crisp brown hoods.
The wind scampered gently across each tiny leaf
The squirrels played and ran up the boughs of the trees.
As I walked along I was filled with awe,
Enjoying God's beautiful works that he gave to us all.

Francis Fleming
Rt. 8, Morganton

Winter's Come

Birds, turn their wing south and fly away.
Small field animals start hunting for warm places to stay.
The days grow shorter;
The nights get longer;
Frost gathers on the windows
And glitters in the morning sun.
What is it?
What happened?
Could it be that winter's come!

Virginia Jones
Rt. 3, Burlington

The Holly Tree

There's a holly tree
Dressed in bright green leaves
And cheerful berries of red
It stands alone in a barren land
Where everything else seems dead.
For man and machine have taken the best
And trampled the rest to the ground.
When weary eyes seeking beauty pass by,
A glimmer of hope may brighten those eyes
When they look at the holly tree.

Edna Sawyer
Havelock

Awaken To Christmas

In Bethlehem the lights are dim,
But break of day is nigh.
Before the inn astounded men
Are gazing at the sky.
Be not afraid, the Star displayed
Means joy for you this morn.
For while ye slept the faith was kept;
The Son of God is born!

With flocks at hand the shepherds stand
To ponder on the night,
And wonder why the Lord on High
Has tendered them the Light.
Be on your way at break of day;
Send tidings 'round the earth,
That each may hear with his own ear
The truth of Holy Birth!

In kingly guise the three so wise,
Who by the Star were led,
With humble ways and words of praise
Are kneeling by His bed.
Divinely sent, your precedent
Of gifts to Christ the Lord
Shall ever be, for they who see,
A thing of pure accord!

This Christmas morn may you adorn
Your heart to match the tree,
And may it's light be pure and bright
For all the world to see.
May gifts of love to God above
Enhance your joy today.
Then from above, His gift of love
Shall brighten all your way!

Paul Ellis Bowman
Hickory, N.C.

Jack Frost

What could be better on a winter morning
Than to wake up to a covering of silver ice,
Ordered with love by the will of God
And delivered by friend, Jack Frost?

Jeanette Davis
Rt. 1, Ahoskie

Knowledge

Your mind is a meadow
To plant for your needs.
You are the farmer
With knowledge for seeds.

Don't leave your meadow unplanted and bare,
Sow it with knowledge
And tend it with care.

Who'd be a know-nothing
When he might grow
The seed of the knowledge
Of stars and of snow.

The science of numbers,
The stories of time
The magic of music
The secrets of rhyme.

Ann McCaskill
Robbins

One Life

Dwell now upon moments of greatness:
The first cry of a newborn babe.
Love fulfilled in marriage.
A life lived with honor.
Death met with dignity.

Kay Lynn
Hickory

My Mind

My mind is like a highway –
Winding, roaming, venturing from the main.
Twisting, climbing, rambling, falling –
All according to the terrain.

At times the steering is easy,
Smooth and clear the way.
More often there are roadblocks
Before the end of day.

This road takes me to my destination.
I don't know where or when.
No sureness where I'm going,
Only where I've been.

Francis Mundy
Rt. 1, Stanley

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"The greatest problem facing American youth"

"In my opinion, the greatest problem facing American youth is the future. The future has always been a problem for every generation, but it seems that it is a greater problem now. There are so many questions that need to be answered – for example, the ecological question. This is not as serious a problem for the older generation as it will be for my age group and the generations to come. American youth will have to deal with this problem as well as with the problems of war, foreign relations and the internal conflicts in this country. These things will no doubt get worse before they get better and the solutions will have to come from us, the young people of America."

Roger Davidson
Statesville

Roger is 17 and a senior at North Iredell High School. He is a member of the North Iredell annual staff and enjoys bowling and attending sports events. His family is served by Crescent EMC.

"I think the greatest problem facing American youth is just being young. The youth of today are faced more than before, with adult problems and not enough adult maturity to handle them. Drugs, sex, crime, etc. are several of the things young people face and make decisions about. But just how many are ready to decide and then handle their decisions?"

Cindy Royster
Crouse

Cindy is 14 and a freshman at West Lincoln High. Her favorite hobby is reading.

"The biggest problem facing us is how to balance the sudden cry for ecological priority within the American system of producing for the people. The right of the individual has been our guiding star. We must not lose this precious liberty as we in the present set about seeking ways to keep the environment viable for the future. With our penchant for finding answers, I am sure American technology will not let mankind down."

Douglas Rader
Lenoir

Douglas, age 17, is active in sports and scouting. His main interest is science. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L.N. Palmer, are served by Blue Ridge.

"I think the greatest problem young people have to face today is that of drug abuse. Too often teenagers feel pressured to take drugs or be called and labeled a chicken. I feel the drug users are the chickens because they are using drugs to get away from their problems instead of working them out."

Rita Hailey
Wake Forest

Rita is 13 and attends Roseville Jr. High. Her hobbies include stamp collecting, basketball and bike riding. Her family is served by Wake EMC.

TEEN ROUNDTABLE

NEXT QUESTION

"What do you say to a close friend who meddles in your business a little too much?"

This question was submitted by Freda West, 14, a freshman at Eastman High School. Her major interests include painting and anything related to nursing. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling West, are served by Halifax EMC.

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina country, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602 at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself – your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5.
If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used the sender will get a $5 check.

EVERYBODY WANTS THE COOKBOOK

Homemaker Editor Brenda Sargent filling cookbook orders.

Homemaker Editor Brenda Sargent was nearing the end of a busy October afternoon filling orders for the new Carolina Country Cookbook when Associate Editor Ed Brown, Jr. caught her in action with his camera.

The stacks of white envelopes on the desk contain a few hundred of the more than 1,200 copies of Carolina Country Cookbook ordered in October by Carolina Country readers who responded to the announcement of the cookbook in the October issue of the magazine.

You still have time to order your copy of Carolina Cookbook. If you already have ordered one for yourself, you can order additional copies to give to relatives and friends. If you send in your order promptly, Brenda will do her best, provided the Postal Service cooperates, to get the cookbooks to you in time for Christmas.

The new Carolina Country Cookbook is as distinctive as Carolina Country and chock full of Carolina Country flavor. It has an attractively illustrated cover and 48 well-designed pages presenting some 75 carefully selected, kitchen-tested recipes, all of which have appeared over the years in Kitchen Corner — recipes sent in by homemakers like you.

How to Order

The new Carolina Country Cookbook costs only $1.50.

To order, send $1.50 for each copy you want (cash, check or money order) to: Carolina Country Cookbook, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Make checks and money orders payable to Carolina Country. Be sure to send with your order your name and complete address, including zip code. The complete address is necessary to assure the cookbooks will reach you by mail.

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Holiday Decorations For You

Until the present age of machinery and plastics, most of the decorations used for the Christmas season were made from plant material, both fresh and dried. If you are tired of the uniformity of mass-produced items and have some extra time and a little patience, why not try making your own Christmas decorations this year?

Always collect quite a bit more material than you think you will need. It is amazing how many cones, nuts, and seed capsules it takes to make even a small item. It is a good precaution to put all of the dry material that you gather into a slow oven (about 150 degrees) when you first bring it into the house. This will kill any insects or other animal life that may be hiding in it.

Most of the dried plant material should be wired so that it can be firmly attached to the frame. This is the most time-consuming part of the operation. To wire: run a wire through or around the item, bring the ends of the wire together and twist them around each other a few times to keep the wire in place. Leave the ends several inches long. Place the items in position on the frame and wrap the ends of the wire around the frame several times to keep the item firmly in position. Any excess wire may then be clipped off.

To store the decorations made with dried plant material, place in a plastic bag to which a few moth balls have been added. This will discourage small wildlife from making the decoration their happy home during the year.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Cones: For tailored wreaths, you will need cones that are as uniform in size and shape as possible. For free-form wreaths, collect as many different sizes as possible.

It is best to gather cones after the scales have fully opened out. The scales close up again if the cone becomes wet. When wiring a cone, slip the wire between the scales so that the wire is hidden from sight. The wire can be placed under the scales at the bottom, middle or top of the cone, depending on your design. Large cones may need to have a wire on either side to hold them securely in place. Many cones are too large to be used in an arrangement, but if the bottom part is cut off and turned upside-down, it forms an attractive rosette that can easily be fitted into the arrangement.

Acorns and Nuts: There are two ways to wire acorns, for both of which you need an electric drill – unless you can figure out another way to bore a hole through the cup. (1) Drill a hole through the base of the nut and a hole through the center of the cup. Run a wire through the nut, then run both ends of the wire through the hole in the cup. (2) Drill two holes in the cup, run a wire through them and then glue the nut into the cup.

Large acorns can be used individually, but small ones make more of a show if they are clustered into groups.

Walnuts, pecans, and other decorative nuts can be wired by drilling a hole through them and running a wire through the hole.

Seed Capsules: Any attractive, reasonably sturdy seed pods or capsules can be used. A few suggestions are: the seed capsules of sweet gum, sycamore, yucca, eucalyptus, buttonbush, Chinese dogwood, and southern magnolia. If the pod has a stem that is rigid and does not break away with a healthy tug, attach the wire to the stem. If it is stemless, figure out some way to drill or poke a hole through it so it can be securely wired.

Greens: Branches of any plant that you have access to and that has green leaves on it in December can be used for greenery. Try to cut the branches just before you need to use them so they will hold up as long as possible. If you must cut them quite a while in advance, keep the branches in water until you are ready to work with them.

Frames for Wreaths: You can experiment making wreath frames at home, using either wood or wire. Just be sure that they are very sturdy so that the weight of the plant material won't bend them out of shape. A quick and easy method of making a small frame is to bend a wire coat hanger into a circle. If you leave the hook on, you'll have a built-in hanger when the wreath is finished. Ready-made wire frames are sold in flower shops. They are quite inexpensive and are available in different sizes.

Wire: Florist's wire is the easiest to work with, but try to avoid buying the ready-cut 12" and 18" lengths as that is quite expensive. The same type of wire is available in rolls at a fraction of the cost.

Wire-cutter: An inexpensive pair can be purchased at either the hardware store or the florist's supply house.

Electric Drill: If you don't have a drill already, invest in an inexpensive one if you plan to use acorns and nuts. If you use a very small bit and place the holes correctly, the wire will not be visible on the finished arrangement.

Florist's Tape: For an arrangement in which you want to display cones or nuts on a "stem," wrap the wire with florist's tape to make it more attractive. The tape is slightly gummy. It will stay in place only if it is stretched very tightly around the wire.

Styrofoam: Pre-cut shapes in cone, ball, and wreath form can be purchased at most dime stores. Styrofoam is easy to work with, but arrangements using it for a base will be more fragile than those on a wire or wood base. Before placing an item on the foam form, be sure it is in the position you want. Once a hole has been made in the foam, it remains a hole. If you shift the material around too often, you will soon have nothing but space to put it on.

If you want to color the styrofoam, make sure the paint you use is made for that purpose. Some paints have an ingredient in them that dissolves styrofoam upon contact.

Glue: Any all-purpose glue that is clear-colored when it dries is suitable.

Added Plant Material: If you have not been able to collect a large enough variety of material, buy a few items to add interest. Gift, craft, and florist

shops usually carry a selection of dried plant material. Nuts in their shells can be purchased at the grocery store.

SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENTS:

Wreaths: Tailored wreaths can be made using only two types of cones with, perhaps, a red ribbon for an accent. However, the more interesting and unusual wreaths are made by using up to 20 different types of dried plant material.

Draw an outline of the wreath frame on a piece of paper. Arrange your material loosely on the sheet of paper to get an idea of what it will look like once it is wired onto the frame. Start by placing your largest or most spectacular specimens equidistant around the circle to form 3, 5, 7, focal points. Then fill in the areas in between with the smaller items. When you are satisfied with the general arrangement, start wiring the material onto the frame in the same sequence. Be sure that each piece is wired on tightly so that it will not rattle around.

You will need more material on the frame than you had on the sheet of paper because it will bunch up more closely when it is wired than when it was loose.

Provide some method of hanging the wreath from the wall or for attaching it to a background wreath of fresh greens.

To Make

Christmas Tree: For this you will need medium-sized to tiny cones, nuts, and pods. Wild rose hips, sumac berries, evening primrose capsules, hemlock cones, and pistacio nuts are some suggestions for the smaller items.

Start with a conical styrofoam and work from top to bottom or vice versa, whichever suits you better. You won't have to do as much wiring for this as for the wreath because the stems on much of the material will be sufficient to hold it to the foam. Put the large items towards the bottom and the smaller towards the top.

Poinsettia: Run a wire through the wide ends of opened milkweed pods, preferably ones that still have the center divider in them. Take 6 wired pods and twist the wires together so that the pods form a rosette. Spray all over with red paint. Wire the sweet gum (or similar seed capsule), paint it gold, and place it in the center of the rosette.

Two suggestions on how to use the poinsettias are: (1) Attach a long, sturdy wire to the flower, wrap the wire with florist's tape, and place several flowers in a vase of fresh greens. (2) Attach the poinsettias to a wreath of fresh greens.

Boxwood Tree: Make the "skeleton" of the tree with a straight twig or dowel (for the trunk) stuck into a styrofoam ball. Anchor this upright into a container. Cut twigs of boxwood (Japanese holly or yew are good substitutes) of a uniform length (usually 3" to 6") and stick them into the ball until it is completely covered. Decorate with your favorite tiny ornaments.

Tailored Wreath

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Corsages of tiny cones and nuts.

Wreath made entirely from wild rose hips. The hips shrink somewhat but keep their color well. Looks very nice against a background wreath of greens.

"Creatures of the Woods" made with cones, nuts, pipe cleaners, and a great deal of imagination.

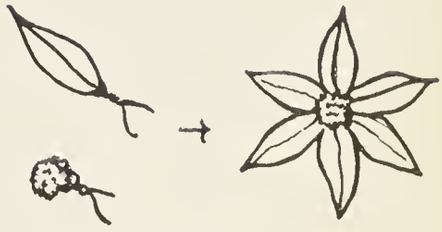
Sumac Seed Clusters used for red accent on a wreath of greens or in vase of greens.

Miniature Tree made from a single large cone. Insert tiny Christmas balls between the scales. Glue on the "trunk" made of a narrow bottle cap.

Free-form Wreath

Method 1 Method 2

Wiring Acorns



Poinsettia

Boxwood Tree, 3/4 finished

HALE

Mistaken Identity

The boss was very angry. Calling the bookkeeper in, he shook his fist furiously at him.

"Look here, Smith! Your work is getting messier every day. See this 3? Why, it looks like a 5!"

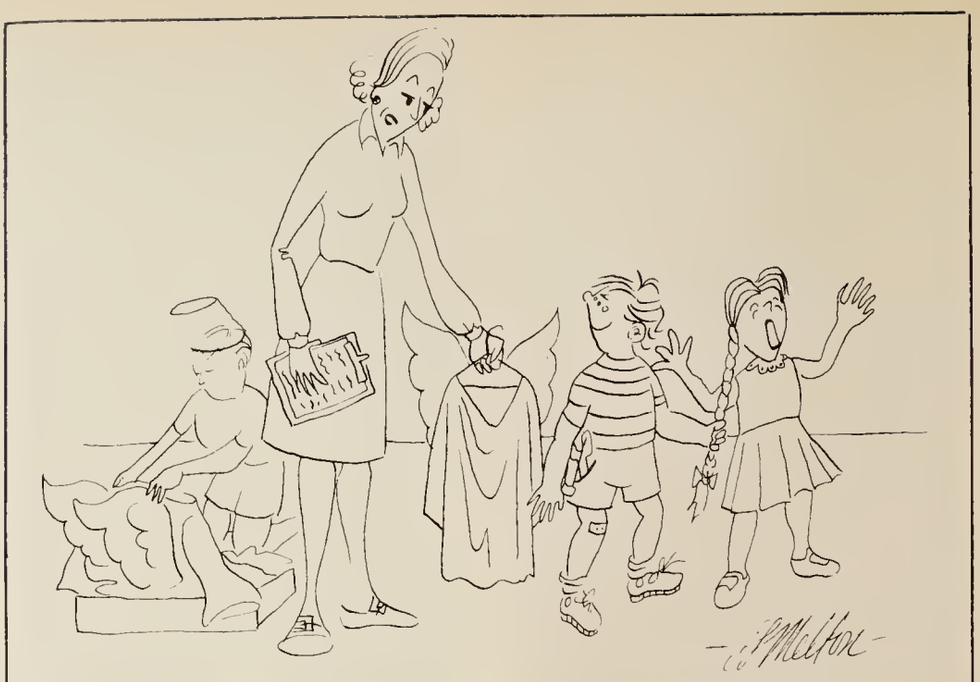
"It is a 5, sir."

"Then why," the boss roared, "does it look so much like a 3?"

Procrastination

"John, I found this letter in your coat pocket this morning. Do you realize that I gave it to you a month ago to mail?"

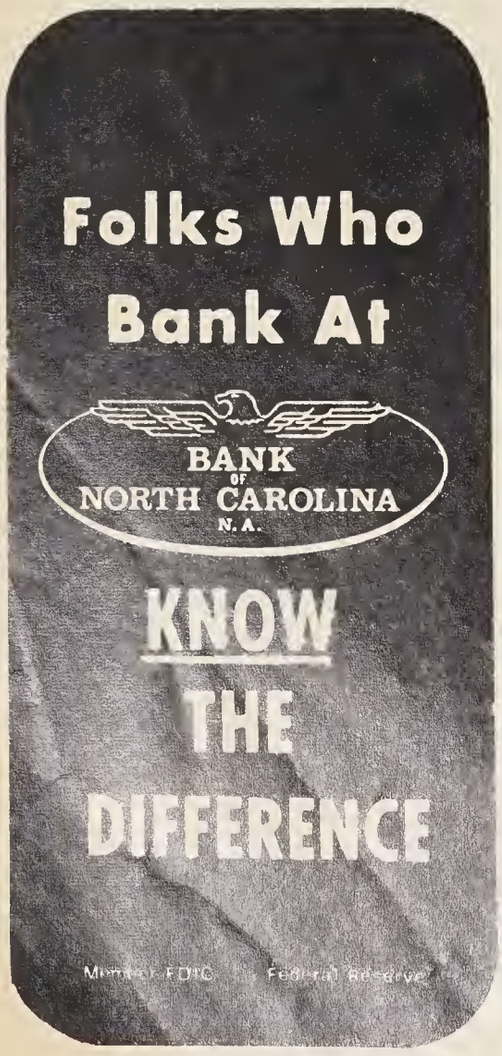
"Yes, dear. I remember . . . I took that coat off for you to sew a button on and I'm still waiting."



"Here's your costume for the pageant, Harold — finest job of miscasting I've done in years!"

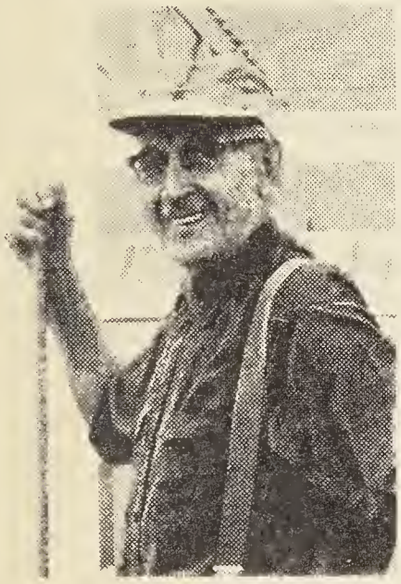
Up To His Neck In Work

Driving past a new development he was building, a contractor saw a group of his men, digging a trench some distance from where they were supposed to be working. He stopped the car and strolled over to them. "What's going on here?" he demanded angrily. "The trench caved in," one of the men replied, "and that's stopping us from digging." "Does the foreman know about this?" "Well," said the workman, "If he doesn't, we'll tell him as soon as we dig him out."



These Christmas trees growing outside Burnsville will soon assume their festive role, but Soil Conservation Service people who advise landowners on conservation regard them as a good conservation program year-round. Trees, for example, prevent hillsides like this from washing when rains are heavy. North Carolina has some 10 million Christmas trees growing — a substantial share of the national figure of 450 million — and 400,000 will be harvested for sale this Christmas according to Extension Service forecasts. The 450 million trees growing across the nation produce enough oxygen to meet daily requirements of eight million people. (USDA-Soil Conservation Service photo by Ned Jestes.)

People Come First With Us



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We of America's consumer-owned rural electric systems, a small but vital part of the electric industry, believe a national fuels and energy policy, embracing a massive R & D program, is essential to ensure electric power for all of us—now and in the future.

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